

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT Hungarian Military Communications System and Miscellaneous Signal

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Diagram of the Ministry of National Defense Peacetime Garrison Radio Communications Nets, labeled Annex D.
2. Sketch of a Type Tactical Wire Communication System for Hungarian Rifle Corps, labeled Annex E.
3. Diagram showing Rifle Corps Radio Communications in Attack and Defense, labeled Annex G.

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ARMY review completed.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR. 20 MAR. 1958

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HUNGARIAN MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS
AND MISCELLANEOUS SIGNAL INFORMATION

A. SPECIAL MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN HUNGARY

Introduction

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1. The National Administrative Telephone Communications System

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a. Facilities and Personnel

[redacted] this special system was contained within the facilities of the regular Hungarian telephone system, under the control of the Minister of Posts and Communications. A separate telephone exchange to service this special system was located in a restricted area of the Budapest Central Exchange. Switchboard operators and other telephone exchange personnel were civilian employees of the Hungarian Post.

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b. Use of the System

The purpose of this system was to provide official, private telephone service between important political and military offices. Such offices included, but were not limited to, the prime minister, other ministers and deputy ministers, army division commanders, and commanders of regiments occupying critical areas or having critical missions (see Annex A [redacted] the organization of the Hungarian National Administrative Telephone System (Országos "K" Távbeszélő Hálózat)).

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The system was for use only by the high-ranking individuals (or their authorized representatives) whom the system served. Subscriber telephones were also located in the living quarters of such persons as the prime minister, all other ministers, and members of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian Communist Party.

c. Telephone Numbers

Subscriber telephone numbers were based on a four-digit system, usually written as 05-11, for example. (This number 05-11 was the actual number dialed to contact the information operator. [redacted])

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d. Security

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[redacted] classified subjects were discussed over this system in clear text. He knew of no speech scramblers or other safeguards used for conversation in the clear² nor any special code employed by users of the system to disguise or conceal the actual subject matter of conversation.

[redacted] subscriber instruments [redacted] contained a dial locking device or the instrument itself was contained in a locked box or cabinet when unattended. [redacted] two telephones, one an extension of the other, were located at 32d Rifle Div headquarters in PAPA. The Division commander's instrument had a dial locking device on it, and the staff duty officer's instrument was always attended by a responsible person.

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The telephone directory for the system carried a security classification of SECRET and received a limited and accountable distribution to subscribers of the system. The telephone directory was titled "National Administrative Telephone Directory" ("Országos 'K' Távközlő Névsor").

e. Efficiency

[redacted] the quality of transmission was generally good; however, calls over long distances were usually readable but poor. The military used an evaluation scale of 1 through 5 for circuit quality. The number 1 represented "unreadable" and the number 5 represented maximum quality.

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Operating and maintenance personnel seemed to be efficient. Repair and maintenance of the system was accomplished by personnel of the Hungarian Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (Postaiügyi Minisztérium - POM).

The system was normally busy and often overloaded, frequently resulting in a 10-to-15-minute delay in obtaining the caller's desired number.

f. Equipment

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[redacted] it was an automatic dial system with attended positions for information service. [redacted] no radio-telephone equipment constituting any part of this system.

Circuits normally were contained in subterranean telephone cables which served the regular POM system. Although trunk circuits existed between this special system exchange and the regular Budapest Central Exchange, telephone calls were not normally permitted between the two systems, and there was no provision for inter-exchange dialing.

2. The Ministry of National Defense Teletype System

a. Facilities

The facilities of this system were provided by POM, and most of the circuits were contained within the communication cables for the regular telephone and teletype service of POM. A separate teletype exchange served subscriber stations. This exchange had trunk circuits connecting with the POM teletype center at BUDAPEST, although these circuits were not normally used for interconnection of the two systems.

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[redacted] no information on the call signs of stations, operating procedures pertaining to routing of traffic, or the operation of the exchange.

b. Use of the System

This system provided official teletype service for the Ministry of National Defense, various departments within the Ministry, and headquarters of major important military organizations without having to route such traffic over the regular POM teletype system. Each department or unit provided its own teletype machine operator.

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[redacted] the sketch shows only teletype connections between VI Corps and subordinate units [redacted] other army corps had similar systems.

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[redacted] teletype communications were established down to divisions only, except where a smaller unit, such as a regiment, occupied a critical position. In the latter situation, teletype communication was established to such a unit.

c. Security

[redacted] most traffic was transmitted in the clear, and he knew of the use of simple codes only, of the type known as operations codes. 4 [redacted] no [redacted] on-line coding devices used with the teletype equipment.

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d. Equipment

Teletype machines and other associated equipment were leased to the Ministry of National Defense by POM and civilian employees of POM furnished maintenance and repair service for the system.

Each army division had four teletype machines, two of them provided by POM for garrison use and two authorized by TOE and kept on hand while the division was in garrison, to be used only when the division went to the field. All four teletype machines had the same appearance.

[redacted] Siemens teletype machines in use, [redacted] no information concerning their model or type, speed of operation, or other technical data. The teletype machines [redacted] were manually operated. [redacted] no perforated tapes or other automatic transmission devices.

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3. The National Courier Service

[redacted] this system was established in the spring of 1956 and operated under the Minister of the Interior. Prior to the establishment of this system, most government agencies and military units operated their own courier services.

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a. Service Provided

This system provided courier service for official documents, most of which were classified, between important political and military agencies and installations. (See Annex C.) Carrying mail or articles of a personal nature for individuals was not permitted.

b. Couriers

Couriers were members of the AVH (Blue) and worked in uniform. They traveled in pairs and were armed with either the submachine gun or pistol. No special insignia was worn on the AVH uniform to identify the couriers as members of the National Courier Service.

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d. Operation of the System

Couriers, operating in vehicles over a scheduled route, would stop at designated agencies or facilities which were utilized as drop and pick-up points for distribution. Couriers were not allowed to stop at other than authorized stop points. Units and agencies not receiving direct courier service were responsible for delivering their official distribution to the pick-up point designated to serve that particular area. They were also responsible for picking up their incoming distribution.

Schedules established for the courier runs were generally adhered to and late arrivals were usually the fault of some unforeseen event. Important units and agencies received courier service three times per week, usually on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Less important agencies and units received service on Tuesday and Thursday.

e. Efficiency

In some instances, adherence to use of the National Courier Service created a great time delay in delivery of distribution. [redacted] distribution from an army unit subordinate to another army unit located perhaps only 70 km away might take a week to arrive at the higher headquarters. This was attributable to the circuitous route taken by the couriers in order to serve the maximum number of agencies with the minimum of "doubling back". Agencies and units serviced by the National Courier Service were obligated to use this service, even at the expense of time delays such as that mentioned above.

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f. Equipment Used

Papers and documents being transported by the National Courier Service were carried in pouches similar to mail pouches. Courier pouches used key-type locks which could be opened only by dispatch and destination agencies. The couriers themselves did not have keys to the pouches.

Vehicles used by the couriers were generally light gray Skoda panel trucks. The trucks had no special or distinguishing identification to mark them as vehicles of the National Courier Service. Courier vehicles were not equipped with radios or other communication equipment.

4. Ministry of National Defense Peace-time Garrison Radio Communication Nets⁵ (See Annex D.)

These radio nets were established as a back-up system for existing telephone and teletype systems and to be used for alert or mobilization notification. they were in continual use and routinely handled all types of command and administrative traffic.

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This same system was maintained when units went into the field for maneuvers. during hostilities the radio nets would undoubtedly be modified or expanded.

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B. TACTICAL WIRE AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS USED BY CORPS

Introduction

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1. Tactical Wire Communications System

a. Sketch

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Reference is sketch (see Annex E) of a "Type Tactical Wire Communications System for a Hungarian Army Corps". This sketch depicts the wire circuits from corps headquarters through various type subordinate units down to OPs. It also shows the parallel wire system employed by the artillery. certain circuits normally exist in the attack only and others exist in the defense only. The sketch utilizes standard Hungarian military signs and symbols, and a legend has been placed on the sketch to clarify items not considered self-explanatory.

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b. Communications Centers

A system of alternate CPs for corps, division, and regimental headquarters, coexistent with the main CP, required an almost duplicate and parallel wire system in addition to that employed by the artillery.

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Two communication centers (In this case, the term "communication center" refers to a switchboard only. If other facilities were present, such as teletype, they are specifically indicated.) were established for each corps, division, or regimental headquarters. Two communication centers (Com Centers) were also established for headquarters of the artillery which supported corps, division, or regiment.

(1) Com Center No 1 was established at the main CP and usually terminated telephone circuits from major headquarters, lateral circuits, and necessary local telephones.

(2) Com Center No 2 was established at the alternate CP (also known as the unit OP) and terminated circuits from subordinate units, OPs, trunk circuits from Com Center No 1, and necessary local telephones. Tactical concept required the presence of the major unit commander at his OP (Com Center No 2), rather than his main CP. The CP and OP were synonymous for battalion-size units.

The wire telephone communication system, insofar as it pertained to trunk circuits, is schematically presented in Annex F. For simplicity, only one division is shown. It is emphasized that the sketch (Annex F) is a type situation only. [] if units were attached or detached for special operations, the wire system would be altered to accommodate such changes in unit location or assignment. 25X1

2. Tactical Radio Communications System

a. [] Sketch 25X1

Reference is made to [] sketch (see Annex G) of a "Type Tactical Radio-Communications System for a Hungarian Army Corps". For simplicity, this sketch shows a complete radio net organization for only one of each type of successive subordinate unit. This sketch utilizes military signs and symbols used in the Hungarian Army and a legend has been placed on the diagram to clarify items not considered self-explanatory. 25X1

b. Use of Radio Nets

A [] there was little or no difference in radio net structures between an attack or defensive operation. Changes in net composition occurred primarily to accommodate units which were attached or detached. 25X1

Of significance are the two almost parallel radio nets which extend through the chain of command. One net was for use by the respective commanders, and the other for use by the respective chiefs of staff. [] these two nets were relatively inflexible in operation and composition; other nets might vary according to the situation. 25X1

The commander's net was primarily used in commanding or directing the employment of subordinate units. Commanders usually were located at the unit OP. The chief-of-staff net provided radio communications for other staff officers and acted as a back-up for the commander's net. The chief of staff usually was located at the unit CP.

Where many radio stations at one CP served the same commander, point-to-point telephones were installed, if possible, to connect the stations with the commander. This permitted expeditious passing of traffic between the commander and the radio station. This same procedure applied to the various radios serving a unit chief of staff.

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[redacted] artillery battalions shown (see Annex G) communicating with the Chief of Artillery, 90th Rifle Regt might be either organic to the 32d Rifle Div or attached for support from the artillery groups.

[redacted] no more specific information concerning technical characteristics or employment of the radio systems depicted in Annex G. 25X1

C. MISCELLANEOUS SIGNAL INFORMATION

Introduction

25X1

1. Signal Communications Training

a. Officer Training

The Hungarian Army maintained a combined Signal and Engineer Officers' School (Táncsics Híradó és Műszaki Tiszti Iskola) at SZENTENDRE (N47-40, E19-05) (UTM CT-6581). The initial course for cadet officers was for a period of three years, and upon graduation cadets were commissioned in either the Engineer or Signal branch.

After a few years' field duty or duty with troops, promising signal officers were returned to take a one-year advanced course. Outstanding signal officers were also selected for attendance at an unidentified Signal school in Soviet Russia. 25X1

Another officers' school, the Zrinyi Military Academy (Zrinyi Miklós Katonai Akadémia), in BUDAPEST, was similar to a command and staff school which had various branch departments. The normal course was three years, with occasional "short" courses of one year for special requirements. Enrollment requirements were at least four years of commissioned service and completion of the advanced one-year signal course. The officer was usually the Signal Officer of a regiment or higher-level unit. 25X1

[redacted] all officers' schools [redacted] contained introductory courses in communications. Most [redacted] knowledge of signal communications was obtained through study of actual communications plans prepared in support of a particular operations plan. 25X1

b. Enlisted Training

A Hungarian signal regiment known as Hadsereg Közvetlen Híradó Ezred, located at VAC (N47-46, E19-08) (UTM CT 5994), provided training and practice for career NCOs in signal communications techniques and procedures. This signal regiment, the numerical designation of which was unknown [redacted] normally supported a field army. Allegedly it was still in existence in April 1957. 25X1

Other signal enlisted personnel obtained communications training within the unit to which they were assigned.

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2. Signal Operation Instructions

Signal Operation Instructions (SOI) were issued through command channels. Radio frequencies were assigned in block form for subordinate units and, where possible, reassigned in block form. This system applied to most SOI items capable of block assignment, such as radio call signs and call words.

Telephone switching designators were assigned by higher headquarters and published to include the listing of the designators for the next two subordinate headquarters. Designators were changed approximately every 10 days in peace-time, and in combat as the situation warranted. No fixed pattern was followed for the periodic changes.

3. Standard Communication Practicesa. Lateral Tactical Communications

In the absence of any special instructions, lateral tactical communications were established from right to left. The commander of the unit on the right was responsible for establishing lateral communication with the unit on his left.

b. Use of Tactical Radio Communications

Radio was considered to be the primary means of tactical communication within and between units of a corps, during the defense as well as the attack phase. Units normally would maintain radio silence until just after the attack began or, if in a defensive situation, just after the enemy began his attack phase. Radio silence was usually lifted by the Net Control Station (NCS) or at a predesignated time.

Tactical radio nets were operated as "controlled" (or "directed") nets, in which secondary stations were required to obtain permission of the NCS prior to transmitting message traffic. The major headquarters station in a radio net normally would act as the NCS.

Voice transmission was used almost exclusively for tactical radio communication. CW would be used only when voice became unsatisfactory because of distance, terrain, interference, etc. Voice radio communications were normally employed by commanders and staff officers as "user-operators". Enlisted radio operators were normally used to install and maintain the equipment and to operate it on CW as conditions warranted.

c. Communications to Alert Assembly Areas ⁶

When army units moved from garrison to field assembly areas during alerts, the usual tactical radio nets were established, and in addition certain units made use of reserved telephone wire circuits allocated from the existing POM telephone cable system. These wire circuits usually terminated at the POM telephone exchange main frame nearest the assembly areas. The wire circuits were extended by the unit(s) they served, using field wire.

This wire system connected division headquarters to corps headquarters only while these units occupied their alert assembly areas. It was considered a "back-up" system for the tactical facilities. one such telephone circuit was provided each division from corps; regiments were not provided with such circuits. These telephone circuits were dead-ended and did not

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terminate in telephone instruments or switchboards when units were not in alert assembly areas. [] the circuits were periodically tested, usually by the unit Signal Officer himself. 25X1

[] army units with border missions had such telephone circuits extended direct to their respective border defense (mobilization) areas. Such circuits terminated at Ministry of National Defense level. Where possible, while in an actual defense position (not an assembly area), one such telephone circuit would be provided for each regiment. 25X1

d. Transmission of Alert Messages

[] no special wording for messages used to alert commands and units to emergencies (actual or simulated). [] a single word only was transmitted, which alerted the staff duty officer to open sealed envelopes containing further instructions. 25X1

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e. Signal Supply and Maintenance

(1) Supply

Signal equipment for a corps was normally requisitioned from army.

[] no special types or additional quantities of Signal equipment issued to a rifle division prior to, or in preparation for, an attack or defense. [] such issues of equipment would be made for specialized operations 25X1

[] should additional equipment (exceeding TOE allowances) be issued, personnel to operate it would have to be provided from sources available to the division. Such personnel could be provided from elements of the division signal battalion which were on a resting or stand-by basis, not then employed operationally. 25X1

(2) Maintenance

Signal repair within the rifle division was accomplished by repair detachments of the division signal battalion and regimental signal companies. Repair detachments at regiment were not mobile. The division signal battalion would have one mobile detachment located within the reserve area, in the vicinity of the division CP. This mobile repair detachment would represent the extent of signal repair capability at division level.

(3) Replacement

No signal equipment replacement pool or "over-the-counter" exchange facilities existed within the division or corps. If items of signal equipment were lost, destroyed, or damaged beyond repair, the division would have to attempt to provide a replacement from equipment currently in use. Requests for a resupply of unrepairable items would be submitted direct from division to army. Replacement would be obtained by direct pick-up from army if the item were considered critical to the tactical mission; otherwise, normal supply procedures would be used. The normal time lag for obtaining replacement items was three or four days.

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f. Military Symbols Used in Communications Diagrams

Reference is made to Annex H for a list of military symbols used in the preparation of Annexes A through G. This list (see Annex H) also includes definitions of certain titles and phrases used.

Comments:

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1. "K" is the initial letter of "Közigazgatás", the Hungarian word for "administration".
2. It seems improbable that clear-text discussions of classified subjects would be permitted over this system in that the facilities, such as wire circuits and terminations, were part of the regular Hungarian telephone system.

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5. This is a functional translation of "Hadsereg Riasztó Rádióháló" (literally: "Army Alert Radio Net").

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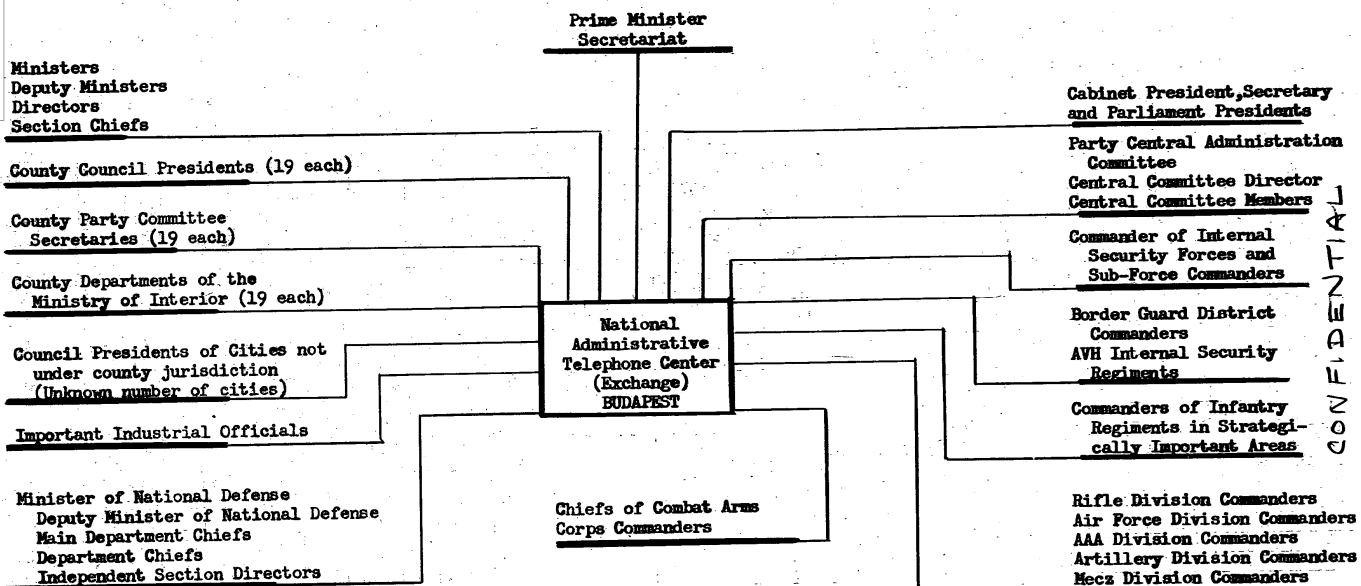
Annex A

CONCEPT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

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Note: This sketch indicates subscriber agencies only. It does not attempt in any way to indicate electrical circuitry. there might be agencies served other than those shown.

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Annex B

CONCEPT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PART OF THE HUNGARIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TELETYPE SYSTEM

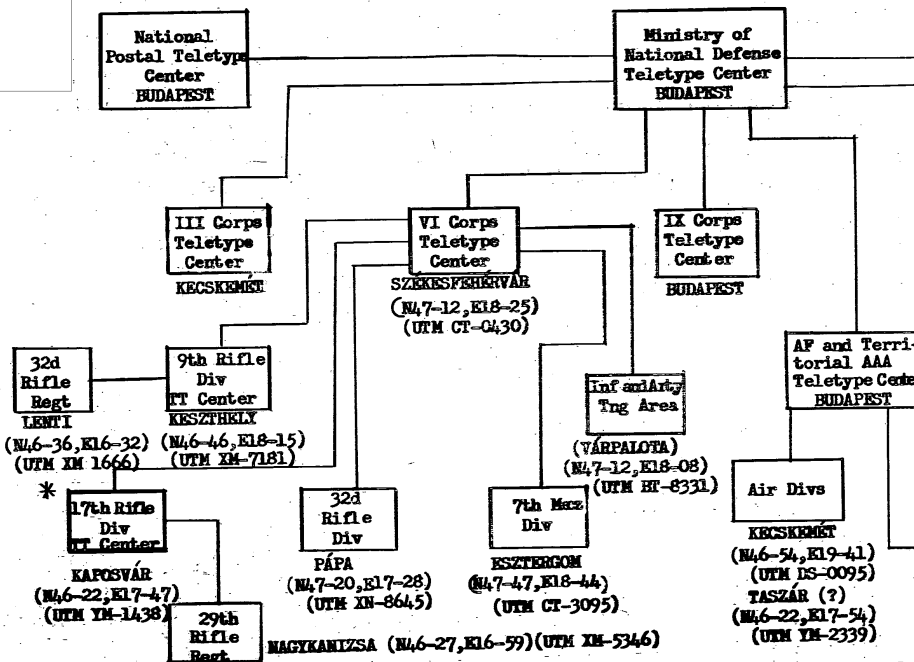
Ministry of National Defense
Teletype Stations
BUDAPEST

General Staff
Operations Group Directorate
Training Group Directorate
Rear Services Group Directorate
Artillery Hq (Command)
Engineer Hq (Command)
Armored Hq (Command)

Service Schools and Academies

Dózsa Inf and Armd Off Sch -
TATA (N4,7-38,E18-19)(UTM HF-9880)
Fancsics Engr and Sig Off Sch -
SZENTENDRE (N4,7-40,E19-05 (UTM
CT-6581)
Hungadi Academy - TATABÁNYA
(N4,7-34,E18-25)(UTM CT-0571)
Kossuth Arty Off Sch - BUDAPEST
Ságvári Rear Svcs Sch- BUDAPEST
Petöfi Political Academy-BUDAPEST
Zrínyi Academy - BUDAPEST
Kilian AF Sch- SZOLNOK (N4,7-10,
E20-11)
Vasvári AF Sch - BUDAÖRS
(N4,7-27,E18-58)(UTM CT-4658)

Territorial
AAA
Divisions
VESZPRÉM (N4,7-05,E17-54)(UTM YN-2019)
? —
? —

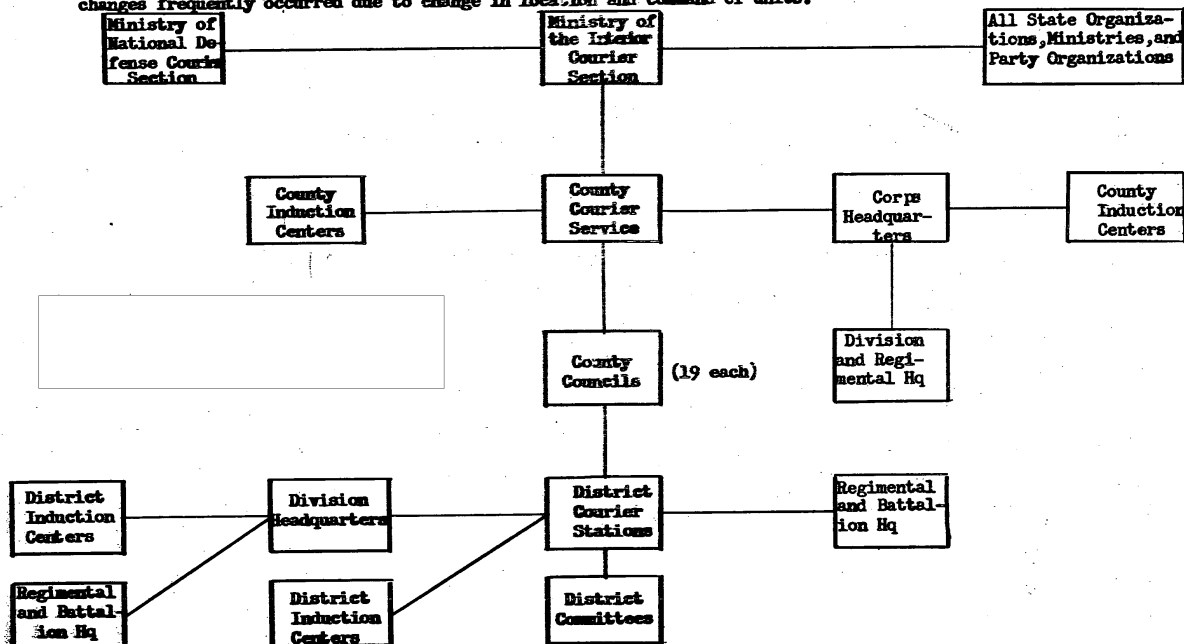


*17th Rifle Div was actually assigned to III Corps, but teletype traffic was via VI Corps, to which this division was formerly subordinated.

Annex C *

DIAGRAM OF THE AGENCIES SERVED BY THE NATIONAL COURIER SERVICE, MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Note: This sketch indicates the type of agencies and units served and some of the connecting links. The headquarters of the senior unit or agency within a specified area or town was usually designated as the pick-up point for that area. Hence, some county induction centers were served directly from the county courier service center and others were served from a corps headquarters within the general locality. This is a type situation only, as changes frequently occurred due to change in location and command of units.



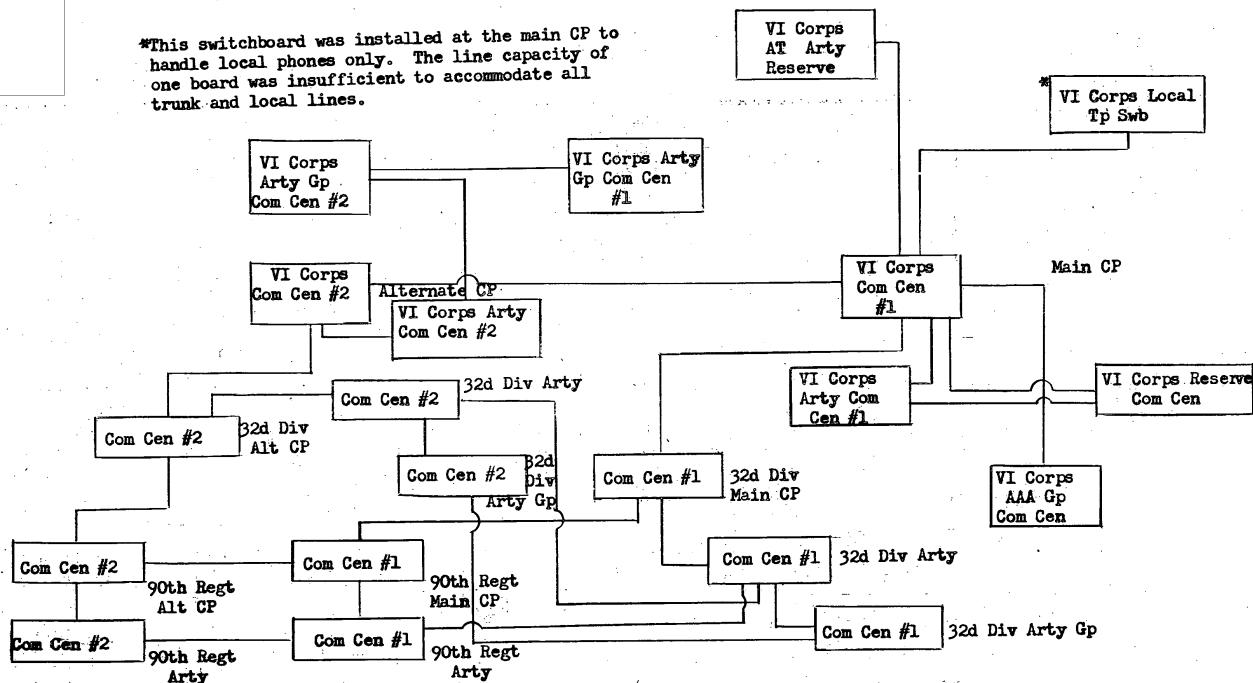
* Annexes D and E are attached as oversized enclosures.

Annex F *

DIAGRAM OF THE
TRUNK CIRCUITS OF A TYPE TACTICAL WIRE-COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR A HUNGARIAN CORPS

Note: For simplicity, only one division is shown.

*This switchboard was installed at the main CP to handle local phones only. The line capacity of one board was insufficient to accommodate all trunk and local lines.



* Annex G is attached as an oversized enclosure.

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Annex H

MILITARY SYMBOLS, TITLES AND PHRASES USED IN HUNGARIAN ARMY COMMUNICATIONS PLANS AND DIAGRAMS

Titles and Phrases

Hir Tengely (Axis of Communication): The main line or direction of wire communication. Normally, it would extend from the rear command post to the forward command post or observation post, and signifies the collective system of telephone and teletype lines.

Hir Irány (Direction of Communication): Lines branching off the axis of communication, possibly leading from the major signal center to a subordinate signal center or from an observation post to a command post or another observation post.

Rádió Háló (Radio Net): At least three, but not more than eight radio sets operating on a single frequency.

Rádió Irány (Radio Direction): Two radio sets operating on a single frequency.

Riasztó Háló (Warning (or Alert) Net): A radio net to be used only for alerting or warning troop units of an aerial, armor, atomic, or chemical attack. Normally, only the larger unit would employ a transmitter in this net, all other units using receivers only. This net usually would be found within army, possibly in a corps.

Hiradó Tartalék (Signal Reserve): Applied to predesignated items of signal equipment (radio, telephone and teletype equipment and wire) stored in a predesignated location for exchange with equipment damaged or lost in combat. Signal personnel would also be designated as reserve, for employment in an emergency.

Rádió Tülszó (Radio Silence): Radio silence would be maintained during preparations for combat activity. During periods of radio silence, only the warning or alert net would be operational. Only emergency messages would be transmitted over the nets.

Hiradó Intézkedés (Signal Orders): Written directives pertaining to radio and wire communications, liaison, and postal services.

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Annex H
(Continued)


Rádió Forgalom Adatok (Radio Operation Instructions): Included in these instructions were such items as call names and alternate call names; call signs and alternate call signs; frequencies and alternate frequencies in KC, MC or by channel numbers; and authentication instructions and procedures. Radio operation instructions were normally issued for a specific day or number of days. These instructions must be issued during the preparation for combat activity. Alternate call names, signs and channels could be employed whenever deemed necessary.


Fedőnév és Fedőszám Táblázat (Table of Code Names and Numbers): Table of code names and numbers of subordinate and neighboring units. Code names were assigned to subordinate and neighboring units, while code numbers were assigned to commanders, chiefs of staff, chiefs of staff sections, and other key officers. Names and numbers were changed every 10 days in peace-time, but were issued one month in advance. In war-time they would be issued and changed depending on tactical conditions and combat activity.

Hír Irány Parancsnok (Communications Line Commander): The officer or NCO responsible for the installation and operation of a telephone exchange or system.

Híradó Ügyeletes (Signal Duty Officer): At regiment, division, corps, and army, an officer of the signal section detailed, on a daily schedule, as Signal Duty Officer. He was responsible for the maintenance of signal communications within that unit, and was directly subordinate to the chief of staff and the operations duty officer. The Signal Duty Officers and signal personnel of all subordinate units were directly subordinate to him in matters pertaining to signal communications. In addition to the Signal Duty Officer, there was a Com Center Duty Officer at regimental, division, and corps levels who was subordinate to the Signal Duty Officer.

Signs and Symbols

 Small (R-10) Transceiver

 Light (R-20) Transceiver

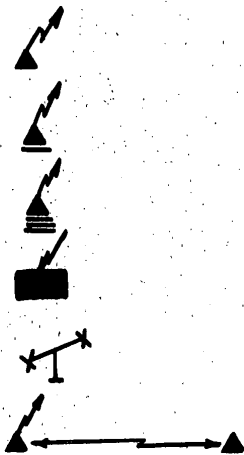
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Annex H
(Continued)

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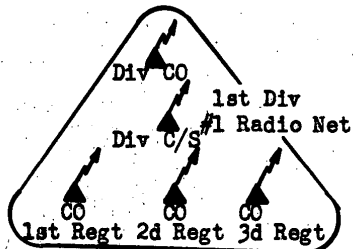
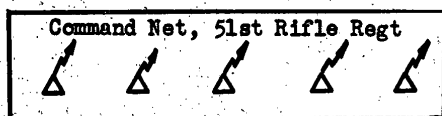
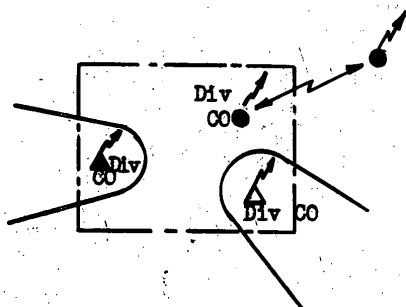
Medium (R-7/B) Radio Set

Heavy (R-40) Transmitter
with appropriate receiverHeaviest (R-60(70)) Transmitter
with appropriate receiver

Unit Receiver

Radar Station (for surface targets)

Two-Radio Net (with R-7/Bs)

One method of depicting a radio net
(employing five R-7/B radios).Another method of depicting a radio net
(employing R-20 radios).A division commander's different
radio nets.

H.K.

General Com Center

G.K.

Teletype Center

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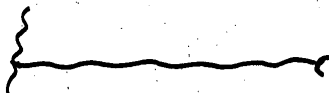
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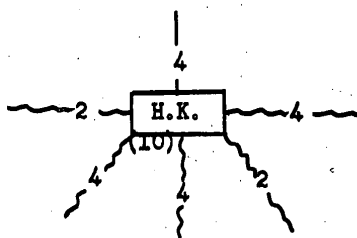
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Annex H
(Continued)Field Telephone Line (light wire)
(Figure indicates the number of conductors.)Field Telephone (telegraph) Line (heavy
wire)
(Figure indicates the number of conductors.)

Telephone on end of line.



Telephone branching off main line.



Telephone Central, 10-drop switchboard.



Field Message Center.



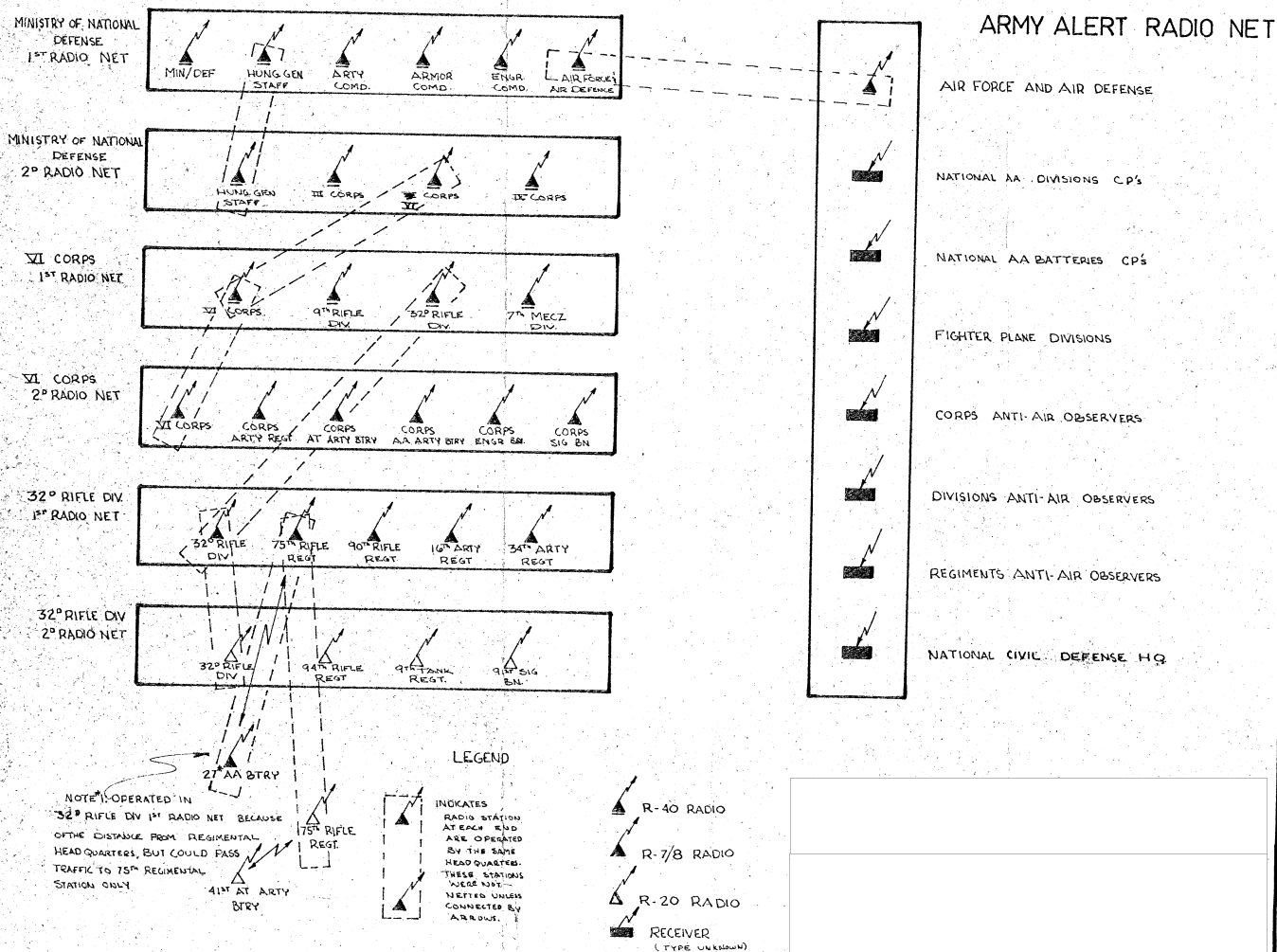
Signal or illumination rocket guard-point.



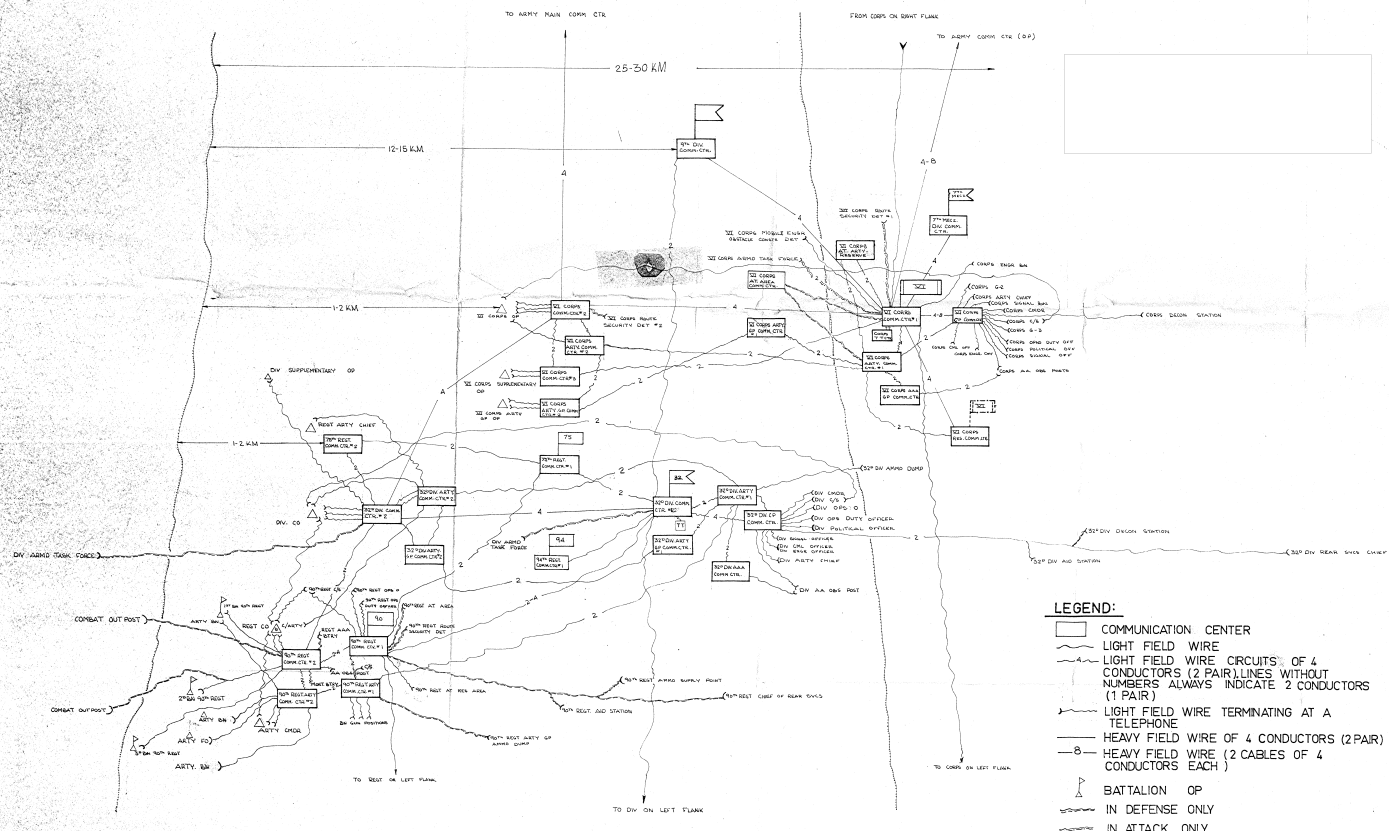
Foot Messenger (route).

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ANNEX D DIAGRAM OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PEACE TIME GARRISON RADIO COMMUNICATIONS NETS



SKETCH OF A TYPE TACTICAL WIRE
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR HUNGARIAN RIFLE CORPS.
(A COMPLETE SYSTEM IS SHOWN FOR ONE SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATION
IN EACH CASE)



RIFLE CORPS' RADIO COMMUNICATIONS (IN ATTACK AND DEFENSE)

